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To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—When a stranger presumes to trespass upon your time, an apology, if not called for, will at least not be considered superfluous. Certainly it becomes him to "show cause wherefore" he claims to be heard. You will pardon me, however, if I remark that for the present communication the only apology I have to offer, and the only "cause wherefore" that I shall urge, are at once found in the unique features of the case I herewith transmit. The valued work on tumors by Dr. Warren, I have not had the pleasure of perusing; but in the splendid production of Prof. Gross, and other works on pathological anatomy, as well as in several monographs on diseases of the uterus, I have in vain looked for a case corresponding, in many of its particulars, with the one already alluded to. Admitting, however, that many cases even, of which my limited reading has not informed me, have been reported, differing in none of their essential features from the annexed case, we should still be in want of a valid reason for writing over the present, *requiescet in umbra*. For, according to the Baconian philosophy, upon whose broad and unshaken basis we are proud to boast rests the science of our art, it is only after we have patiently collected together a mass of *facts* that we are at all justifiable in framing theories on any subject, or that we can in any way arrive at fixed principles in any science. In this view of the subject, you will pardon me for intruding upon your notice the following case of

OSTEO-SARCOMATOUS AND FIBROUS TUMORS OF THE UTERUS.

E. C., a maiden lady, æt. 60, of full habit, and temperament bordering strongly on the sanguineous, was on the 8th ult. seized with a paroxysm of violent pain in the stomach, and died very suddenly.

From the history of the case it appears that for many years previous to her decease she had been subject to these attacks of pain, which often were most excruciating. She had resorted to many physicians for relief, without experiencing the least permanent benefit. In the diagnosis of her disease no two of her medical advisers could agree. While one pronounced it gastritis, another said the spleen was in fault; the third affirmed that she had "water about the heart," while the patient herself, during these conflicting opinions, remained unshaken in her belief, and as confidently as ever averred, that she had "a worm in her stomach"!

A few days antecedent to her last struggle, she fractured the os femoris of the left side at its lower third. The fracture was dressed by her physician, residing in a neighboring town, and, for aught that is known to the contrary, was doing well. She complained very little of pain in her limb, but the uneasiness and distress in her stomach, with which she had been afflicted during the latter period of her life, was now increased tenfold—owing, as she said, to her being confined to her back—a position she had not been able to assume for many years. The night previous to her last attack, she rested tolerably, and in the morning appeared about as well as usual. She, however, took little nourishment at breakfast, and said she believed she was "not as well." Not many hours after, she was attacked with a paroxysm of very violent pain in the stomach and epigastric region, with strangling and great distress. The attendants became alarmed, and soon she was heard to exclaim, "I am dying, I am dying." I was riding by the house, which was situated some little distance from the road, about this time, and being seen by the family a messenger on horseback immediately came in pursuit. He soon overtook me, and together we hastened back to the house. But when we arrived, the weeping eyes at the door spoke a language that could not be misinterpreted—the spirit of the sufferer had departed. Not more than 15 or 20 minutes could have elapsed from the commencement of the attack until she breathed her last. Being convinced that the vital spark had become extinct, no efforts were made at resuscitation. Thus much for the history of the case.

Autopsy, 24 Hours after Death.—Being exceedingly anxious to ascertain all that the scalpel could reveal of a disease which hitherto had bid defiance to all diagnosis, and only mocked at every attempt the physician had made to arrest its progress, Dr. Merrill and myself repaired to the house on the day following, for an autopsic examination.

On the external surface nothing remarkable presented itself. The more depending parts exhibited a livid appearance, bordering on sugillation, probably the effect of gravity in the circulating fluid—caused in part, perhaps, by incipient putrefaction. The abdomen was a little tympanitic, though not remarkably so—while the whole exterior gave the appearance of a thick cushion of fat interposed between the muscular and dermoid tissues. The thorax sounded well on percussion, and by a simple inspection of the body, as it lay before us, no traces of disease could be discovered.

As no serious difficulty had ever been complained of in the head, the cerebral organs were not examined. We proceeded then, at once, to lay open the thorax. The lungs appeared healthy, but on removing them from their appropriate cavities, the inferior lobes of both the right and left sides presented a high state of venous engorgement. On cutting into this portion of the lungs, large quantities of venous blood followed the incisions of the knife, although the lungs throughout were crepitous and exhibited no appearance of disease. The pericardium being laid open, no morbid appearance was observable; if there had been water "about the heart," it had now, at least, disappeared, for the quantity of serous fluid in this cavity differed not from that usually ob-

served. The right cavities of the heart were somewhat distended with venous blood, the left entirely empty. The auriculo-ventricular and semi-lunar valves of both sides of the heart were in a healthy condition. In fine, not the slightest traces of disease could be discovered in any of the thoracic viscera.

The abdominal cavity was next laid open, and we proceeded to examine minutely the organ which had borne so large a share of blame, as producing the suffering which, for such a series of years, had been complained of. But the slightest traces of disease only could be discovered in this much-blamed organ. In size it differed nothing from its normal state—whilst its peritoneal coat, and indeed its whole exterior appearance, gave the idea of perfect health. The stomach was next detached from the œsophagus above, and the duodenum at its pyloric extremity, and removed from the body. On laying open its walls we were not at all disappointed in finding the "worm" after the same manner that we had the water in the pericardium—at any rate, if the viper had inhabited this cavity for a dozen or fifteen years, it had now forsaken its domicile! The villous coat was somewhat thickened throughout its entire extent, and in its structure presented slight traces of sub-inflammation—these changes were particularly about the valve and in the neighborhood of the pylorus.

The *liver*, in its general appearance and minute structure, was perfectly healthy—there were no calculous deposits or any obstruction in either the cystic or hepatic ducts, for a probe could be passed into either of these cavities through the ductus communis choledochus. The spleen was somewhat indurated, and perhaps a little enlarged. The pancreas perfectly healthy. The kidneys gave not even the slightest indication that they had ever been the seat of morbid action.

Thus far, then, we had entirely failed in finding in the pathological condition of our patient the least explanation of the remarkable physiological phenomena noticed in the beginning of our inquiry. Nor were we any more successful as we cursorily passed over the duodenum, the jejunum, the ilium and colon, in rapid succession. And it was not until the pelvic viscera were exposed, that anything like a serious departure from the healthy condition was observed. The two great emunctories of this cavity were in an entirely normal condition, neither the bladder nor the rectum betraying any marks of disease. But not so with the uterus. In this organ, if we did not at once find the *fons et origo* of the whole difficulty, we discovered at least good reason why there might have been serious difficulty during life. Attached to the fundus of the womb, by a peduncle of perhaps an inch in length, and thus permitting it to float among the pelvic viscera, we found a tumor of about the size of a small orange. Its surface presented a somewhat lobulated appearance—the footstalk connecting it to the uterus, as well as the external covering of the tumor, was of a sero-fibrous texture, highly vascular, and formed by an elongation of the peritoneal coat of the womb. In figure, the tumor resembled pretty nearly an irregular oblate spheroid, compressed in the centre. Its weight, ʒ ii.— ʒ ix. av., and when sawn asunder, its diameters measured 1¾ and 2¼ inch nearly. Its minute

structure was osteo-sarcomatous, observing a honey-comb-like arrangement; and if we imagine the comb made of bone and its cells filled up with a sarcomato-fibrous structure, we have a pretty accurate representation of its appearance and anatomy. The bone was hard and compact, not unlike ivory, and in many respects differed not essentially from the case of Prof. Francis, of New York; whilst in some of its features it resembled strongly that reported by the celebrated Louis, in his memoirs before the Acad. Royal Chirurg. of Paris—differing, however, from both these cases, in being attached to the fundus externally, while they had their connection with the uterine walls internally.

Besides the tumor already described, there were others of smaller dimensions and purely fibrous in their structure. One of them had its attachments immediately within the os tincæ, so as to hinder effectually the introduction of even a probe, unless it was considerably bent.—Two other tumors of a similar appearance and structure were found developed in the muscular tissues of the body of this organ. Minute tubercular depositions were sprinkled over the external surface of the uterus, and throughout the entire extent of its walls was somewhat thickened and rather indurated. The ovaries were a little enlarged, and presented a fibrous degeneration. A better idea, perhaps, of the size, relative situation, and attachments of the tumors above described, can be obtained by a glance at the rude sketch accompanying this paper, than could be done merely from reading the description; and should the drawing answer but in the slightest degree the end intended, I will most cheerfully submit to the imputation of being "a novice in the fine arts."

Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

Fig. 1.—The uterus with its appendages.
A. The uterus.
B. Osteo-sarcomatous tumor attached to fundus.
C and D, Fibrous tumors in body.
E, Fibrous tumor protruding at os uteri thro' which a probe is passed.
F, Section vagina.
G, Ovaries.

Fig. 2.—A section of the osteo-sarcomatous tumor, showing its internal stucture and arrangement.

I have been thus particular, and perhaps even tedious, in the details of the case, in order to institute a few brief inquiries, which I hope will command the attention of some one of your numerous correspondents.

From all that has been said, to what particular circumstance, or com-

bination of circumstances, shall we look for the cause of the sudden death in the case before us? Would the fact of the age of the patient —the nervous system receiving a shock at the time the fracture occurred, from which, in all probability, it never recovered—together with the constant and unaccustomed pressure of the tumor upon the sciatic plexus, caused by the decubitus—afford in any degree a satisfactory solution? If not, who will solve the problem? Again, will the nervous connections of the stomach and uterus, *and* the great sympathy existing between these organs, account for the suffering of the former, if we consider the extensive disease that in the present case existed in the latter? Once more—is the ground taken by Lisfranc, in his work on diseases of the uterus, tenable, when, among the exciting causes of uterine disease, he mentions "especially a life of chastity"?

In conclusion, I would beg pardon for my prolixity, while I add that the above case is entirely at your disposal. Of course you are at perfect liberty either to transfer it to the pages of your Journal, or write upon it "rejected."

Yours, most truly,

Franklin, N. H., 18th May, 1840. DANIEL V. FOLTS, M.D.

A NEWLY-INVENTED "PORTABLE BATHING TENT."

BY J. WRIGHT WARREN, M.D., BOSTON.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

THE subject of bathing—a practice of most remote antiquity—is probably sufficiently well understood not to require any direct or explicit explanation. The *term*, however, even in our own country, and in this enlightened age, seems to have become almost an obsolete phrase, excepting, perhaps, during a few weeks of the excessively warm weather in summer, when the sultry heat of a vertical sun compels men to quit their avocations and regale themselves in Nature's grand restorative—the cool bath. It seems very singular that a practice like this, from whence the ancients derived so much benefit, and which was so constantly used by them, both as a preventive and curative measure, should thus, comparatively, have sunk into oblivion.

With regard to the utility of general and constant bathing, as a means of preserving health, or as a prophylactic against diseases, it would seem that there could be no question: its very name should carry with it *prima facie* evidence of its excellence as a luxury, and its indispensable advantages as a promoter of health.

There are numerous diseases, also, in the curation of which some one of the various baths are peculiarly applicable, and in many absolutely indispensable. But the grand desideratum, which interests alike the whole family of mankind, is the *prevention* of disease, and for this purpose we would strongly recommend it. Nothing can be more conducive to health, when vigorous, or more salutary when it is impaired, than a constant attention to the exhalations—to the state of the skin—keeping the pores

open and the surface clean and healthy: and nothing can so effectually accomplish this important object, as frequent bathing and friction.

The skin must not be regarded as a mere covering of the body, but as an organ, the healthy condition of which, is of vast importance to the well being of the whole frame, but especially to the stomach and lungs, with which it has the closest sympathy. The stomach is exquisitely sensitive; it sympathises with every function. If the skin is neglected in its cleanliness—if the clothing is too tight over the organs of digestion—if the body be kept too warm or too cold—if an impure air be constantly breathed—it is obvious enough that the organs of life cannot go on performing their duties in a healthy manner.

Insensible perspiration, as it is called, goes on at the rate of at least 24 ounces given off from the surface of the body every day; thus, it will readily be conceived that if this load be suddenly thrown upon the internal organs, as the lungs, &c., by checking its natural egress through the skin, in any manner, derangement of function must necessarily follow. Therefore we should beware of obliging the lungs to work for the skin; for among the innumerable diseases of a very formidable character which are the necessary concomitants of obstructed perspiration, no one is of greater moment than that which arises from this source.

It cannot be denied that *consumption*, that master of diseases, whose insidious hand sweeps off its thousands annually, and which has so effectually signalised itself as the scourge of our climate, almost universally takes its origin from this great cause. Yea, *always*, with perhaps the single exception of cases of hereditary taint, and even then it is usually the immediate exciting cause or prompter of the lurking evil to action. In fact, the least obstruction to the exhalations of the body of such an individual, cannot be tolerated without incurring a risk proportioned to the extent of obstruction, and the constitutional liabilities of the system.

On the other hand, the mind sympathises in the most delicate and powerful manner with the nerves of organic life, in all their general affections and conditions. When they are well regulated the thoughts flow with greater ease and increased energy—the imagination becomes more vivid and vigorous—and the memory more clear and active. This delightful sympathy between the nervous system of organic life and the mind may be preserved through life; and were all the laws of constitution and relation, which our benevolent Creator has established in our nature, properly obeyed, it would be so.

To approximate as near as possible to this desirable condition of things, requires a constant attention to our rule of life, as above premised—to our habits, diet and regimen, dress, and though last, not least, *personal cleanliness*. By such a course the blood is made to circulate with more freedom, the whole body acquires a suppleness and lightness, and the spirits gain a vivacity and flow which cannot be experienced in an equal degree by any other means.

Medicinally considered, bathing ranks among the most efficacious means by which diseases are prevented or cured. It was duly appreciated by the ancients, and with several of the most powerful and robust

nations of the present day, is almost the only remedy used. In Russia, it forms so essential a part of the system of living, that it is used by people of every age and in all circumstances, and, as a nation, they are certainly amongst the longest-lived people on the face of the earth. Mr. Tooke, in his "View of the Russian Empire," says, "Without doubt the Russians owe their longevity, their robust state of health, their little disposition to certain mortal diseases, and their happy and cheerful tempers, mostly to their baths." The ancient Greeks, Romans and Germans, as well as the Persians, Turks, and especially the modern Egyptians, also enjoy the comforts and luxuries procured by bathing, in a degree of which we can scarcely form an adequate conception. Their bagnios, or baths, are fitted up in a style and elegance, of which those who have not seen them must form a very faint idea. At Rome, during the reign of the emperors, there were not less than 870 public baths, which were all opened at the sound of a bell, and at the same hour. The Emperor Adrian found it necessary to lay a restraint upon the immoderate humor of bathing, by public edict, prohibiting all persons from bathing before the 8th hour.

Lord Chancellor Bacon, Dr. Franklin, Sir Humphrey Davy, and other sagacious observers of nature and mankind, have lamented, and certainly not without cause, that the practice of bathing has fallen into such disuse among modern nations.

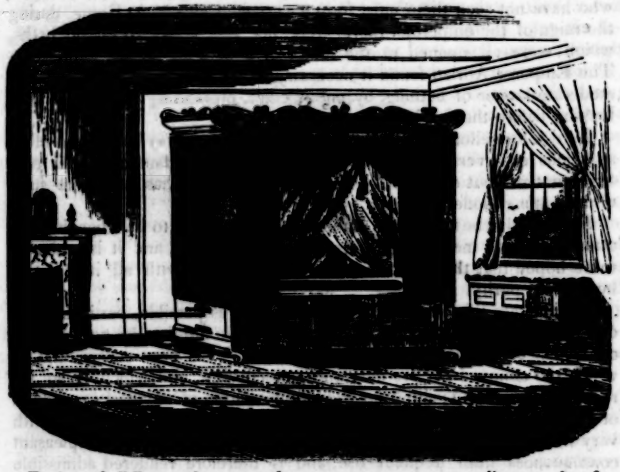
Fortunately, however, the subject appears again to be engaging the attention of the more thoughtful portion of mankind, and it is ardently to be hoped that the custom will soon be revived with all its pristine health and purity.

To facilitate this desirable object as much as possible, particularly in cities, where it is most needed, and where there are few or no domestic conveniences, the "Portable Bathing Tent" has been constructed, of which the annexed cut presents a superficial view, and which is so arranged as to afford facilities for the administration of any and every kind of bath in the same apparatus, without the least inconvenience and with very little labor. It will not occasion any dampness or other unpleasant consequences from frequent use, and is therefore rendered admissible into any dressing room, sleeping apartment, or sick chamber, as convenience or necessity may require; thereby entirely precluding the necessity of having a room set apart and exclusively devoted to such purposes, which but few, particularly in large cities, can conveniently spare. It was originally designed to supply this deficiency of bathing rooms, so universally felt, by affording every convenience in an apparatus so compact and portable as to be generally approved and adopted; and it is confidently believed that this object has been fully attained in the above arrangement, and that when its peculiar advantages become known, it will be adopted as a necessary adjunct to the dressing rooms of every family who esteem cleanliness a luxury, or health a blessing worthy of being possessed.

It is proper to begin the practice of bathing in warm weather, and to continue it through every season afterwards; but there can be no serious objection to commencing with the tepid bath at any season of the year;

and by degrees a habit may be formed, all circumstances being favorable, of taking the cold bath advantageously even in winter, in the form of douche or shower bath, &c.

A celebrated medical writer of Europe, remarks, that "Autumn is the most unhealthy quarter of the year; because the particles of perspiration are retained in the body in a state inclining to putrefaction," which, he adds, "is the direct cause of the large number of autumnal fevers." Thus, by timely and seasonable ablution, these impurities, that insidiously lay in us the train to tedious and dangerous diseases, will be removed before they vitiate the blood and the juices; and the natural perspiration, the most important of all excretions, must certainly go on better in a body constantly kept soft by bathing.



Baths, of different degrees of temperature, corresponding to the familiar terms cold, temperate, hot, vapor, &c., are suited to different and opposite states of the body. The manner of using them is also different —the time of immersion or staying in them varying according to the required quantum of impression or effect, as will be particularly noticed in treating of each.

Description, &c.—The above apparatus resembles and occupies the space of a fashionable wardrobe, and may take a corresponding place to the one usually assigned to that article in any dressing room; or may be removed at pleasure, being completely portable—every part belonging thereto being easily packed in the tub, and the top, when annexed, forming a lid, like that of a trunk or chest, as seen in the above engraving. It possesses the greatest advantages when consideredas a *fixture* in any particular room, as in that case the water may be pumped directly into the tub, at a small expense, and readily let off when used, by apparatus

connected with it. When the requisite quantity of water is in the tub for use, a *shower bath* may easily be taken, in connection with or separately from the tub bath, by working the small force-pump at the end of the tub a few moments, until the "alarm pipe" shows the receiving basin to be full; then by dropping the "protecting curtain" and pulling the cord which raises the valve, the operation is completed.

To take a *warm bath*, nothing more is necessary, in addition to what has just been mentioned, than to have a little fire placed in the stove or boiler, with a very small quantity of any combustible material, when, if the pipes are connected, the heating process will immediately commence and be kept up by the circulation between the two vessels, which may be stopped at any moment by shutting either of the stop-cocks attached to the pipes. Thus the water may be heated to any desired temperature, and used either as a tub or shower bath; as the latter being always taken from the tub, may also be warmed, if necessary.

To take a *vapor bath*, it is only necessary to shut the lower pipe, when the water in the boiler, being cut off from the circulation, must necessarily pass off in the form of vapor or steam through the upper pipe into the tent which encloses the bather. For *medicating* the vapor, any oils, essences or tinctures may be placed in the cup near the pump, and by loosing the screw stop in the centre, the contents are made to unite with the vapor as it passes, and—to say no more—affords a very agreeable perfume. There is also an elastic tube or pipe, to be attached, when used, to the end of the upper pipe of the tub, the other end of which is guided by the hand to convey the vapor or steam to any part of the system; and which is found to be both agreeable and useful in a variety of cases.

Finally, the above arrangement is believed to be as nearly perfect as it is possible in the nature of things to make it; and the tent can be made so plain, simple and cheap as to come within the reach of any one—or so rich, as to vie in point of splendor and style with any of the oriental baths.

P. S.—Full and complete directions for the application of each variety of bath, will accompany the "Bathing Tent" when put in use.

Boston, June, 1840.

HEREDITARY INSANITY.

[We embrace the earliest opportunity to copy from the last annual report of Dr. Woodward, of the Massachusetts State Lunatic Hospital, his remarks on hereditary predisposition to insanity. Though differing in some respects from the generally received opinions on the subject, they cannot but commend themselves to the favorable consideration of all.]

In many institutions the term *hereditary* is put down as a cause of insanity independent of any exciting cause. My view of this matter is different. In all diseases that are hereditary, a slighter cause will induce the disease than in constitutions not so predisposed, but still there must

be a cause to arouse to action the latent principles upon which the disease depends, independent of this constitutional predisposition.

Those whose ancestors have been insane, must be careful to avoid the exciting causes of disease, as those who have been accustomed to gout, or whose ancestors were affected by it, must avoid the use of fermented liquors and rich diet upon which the disease originally depends, and by which it may easily be excited if the hereditary predisposition lies dormant in the system.

In the table, the cases marked hereditary are not all from insane ancestors. Where many individuals connected collaterally have been insane, the case is recorded as hereditary, by which is only meant that they are constitutionally predisposed to insanity. Such persons must observe the same precautions to escape the disease as those whose parents were insane.

There are many causes of insanity that are obscure and uncertain; there are others which the friends prefer should not be known; thus there are difficulties attending the investigation of the causes of disease which will probably never be fully overcome.

With the greatest susceptibility of which the constitution will admit, there must be some violation of the established laws of the system before disease will take place. This holds true of insanity as well as other diseases—for insanity is as much a physical disease, depending upon a peculiar state of physical health, as any other. If a predisposition existed in the brain and nerves sufficiently active to produce insanity without the intervention of exciting causes, then insanity would be constantly present and perpetually active. This state of the brain probably produces congenital idiocy. The difference between an idiot and a maniac may, in some cases, be only that *one* has no ideas, no knowledge of external things, having never had the exercise of the senses which the confirmed maniac had, before the brain became affected by organic disease. So also partial idiocy may bear the same relation to monomania. If we suppose a case of chaotic mania, in which all knowledge was at once obliterated from the mind, I cannot conceive of any other condition to which such a mind would be reduced, but one quite similar to the most deplorable congenital idiocy.

This is not the fact respecting insanity; remedies remove insanity in such cases as well as in others, though perhaps not with equal certainty.

I think it perfectly safe to say that insanity never occurs in any case without a cause exciting to a diseased state, the brain and its appendages. There is safety in all cases of predisposition, if the causes which bring the parts of the system affected by disease into action are avoided. Those who are predisposed to insanity must avoid the causes, and those who have no peculiarity of constitution indicating a tendency to the disease if exposed to exciting causes, may become affected by it themselves and establish a hereditary taint which shall be transmitted to their posterity. There is certainly satisfaction to be derived from this view of the subject. Those who have ancestors who have been affected by insanity have little consolation in the dread which must always exist, that a principle is in operation within them which, at any time, may

spontaneously break forth in this most appalling of all human maladies. But if it indeed be true that such a case is safe from insanity till causes produce an impression upon the brain and nervous system, exciting into action the latent principle of disease, such an individual can feel security while anxiously avoiding causes which, to a greater or less extent, influence all.

In a document like the present, it cannot be expected that principles can be fully discussed, but I cannot avoid the occasion to express my dissent from the very general impression that at present prevails, unfavorable to marriage with those who have hereditary predisposition to insanity. While there may be instances in which insanity may in this way be transmitted, an equal number of cases must exist in which intermarriage of one so contaminated with another of different constitution, shall render the offspring safe from its influence. The good which thus results in the community must be quite equal to the evil; and though benefit would doubtless result if inquiry was made more frequently than it is, of the constitutional tendencies to disease in cases of marriage, yet in avoiding one difficulty we might fall into another hardly less to be dreaded. If, in our anxiety to avoid insanity, we should overlook other predispositions hardly less fearful, as scrofula, consumption, epilepsy, &c., we might find equal danger. The fastidious, in this dilemma, would conclude that it was safest to let all his original sins die with his actual transgressions in his own person. If we would avoid the causes of disease, such causes as it is in our power to avoid, it is my settled conviction that little danger would arise from hereditary taint.

I would by no means overlook predisposition, in examining the causes of insanity, but believe that temperament, misdirected education, active passions, and propensities not subject to the control of the mind, the neglect of intellectual culture, and more especially the neglect of establishing the control of the high moral sentiments, results in insanity far more frequently than a hereditary taint; these may also increase a predisposition which before had little tendency to become active.

A defective and faulty education, through the period of infancy and childhood, may, perhaps, be found to be the most prolific cause of insanity; by this, in many, a predisposition is produced, in others it is excited, and renders incontrollable the animal propensities of our nature. Appetites indulged and perverted, passion unrestrained, and propensities rendered vigorous by indulgence, and subjected to no salutary restraint, bring us into a condition in which both moral and physical causes easily operate to produce insanity, if they do not produce it themselves.

We must look to a well directed system of education, having for its object physical improvement, no less than mental and moral culture, to relieve us from many of the evils which "flesh is heir to," and nothing can so effectually secure us from this most formidable disease, as well as others not less appalling, as that system of instruction which teaches us how to preserve the body and the mind; to fortify the one from the catalogue of physical causes which everywhere assail us, and which elevates the other above the influence of the trials and disappointments of life,

so that the hosts of moral causes which affect the brain, through the medium of the mind, shall be inoperative and harmless.

We bring most of the evils of life upon ourselves. We cannot always escape the causes of disease, nor avoid the disappointments and afflictions of life, but imprudence and rashness plunge us into most of our calamities, and few of us have been educated to bear them as we ought.

BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, JULY 1, 1840.

PROF. BRONSON'S LECTURES ON ORATORY.

This gentleman, whose name has become familiar to the literary public, has been engaged several years in teaching reading, speaking and singing in accordance with what he considers the true principles of physiology and mental philosophy. Of course it comes legitimately within the sphere of our professional observation to notice him.

The manner in which Mr. B. discovered the fundamental principles of the new system—or, as it is properly denominated, the Bronsonian system—is somewhat interesting. It is said that for some time he was engaged in public speaking (the ministry, we believe), and in consequence of pursuing a course in opposition to scientific rules, although it seems he was not unacquainted with those works which treat expressly of elocution, he became completely prostrated. Bleeding from the lungs, and other evils incident to an over-working of the vocal apparatus, followed; in a word, the injudicious exercise of articulative power, ruined his health, and physically disqualified him for the desk. In this condition, expectorating alarmingly from day to day, while lying upon his back to ward off a paroxysm of coughing, he happened to press upon the abdomen—which gave sudden and unexpected relief in breathing. The pressure thus made with the hand, seemed to change the effort from the chest to the abdominal muscles. The circumstance induced him to attempt speaking by bringing into action the muscles of that region, as far as practicable, and he at once perceived that in speaking there was manifest relief when aiding himself by artificial assistance. By frequent efforts the lungs were greatly relieved from the labor that a bad or unnatural habit had imposed upon them. Thus favored, and apparently left to the free discharge of their specific functions in the economy, his health began to improve. After recovering sufficient strength to visit his friends, he saw a young child under circumstances which induced him to observe others in the act of speaking, and he at length became quite satisfied that the lungs should be used for the transmission of air, and the abdominal muscles perform the office of propelling it to produce sound in the larynx.

But the difficulty which presented itself was to bring the lower muscles into action. Fortunately, in riding on horseback, it was ascertained how an object so desirable might be accomplished. From that period, vigorous health was established, and on the principle or principles thus discovered, if we understand him rightly, he proceeded to establish a new school of

oratory. As might have been anticipated, there are a multitude of disbelievers—a thousand objections and queries. Nevertheless, we are assured by many who have weighed the whole matter with scientific scrutiny, and practised upon Prof. Bronson's precepts, that when his principles are reduced to practice, conviction takes the place of incredulity. It is also said that many public speakers who, in common parlance, had lost their voices, or were otherwise incapacitated by the development of diseases incident to an improper tasking of the vocal powers, have been manifestly benefited, if not wholly and permanently restored, by following the rigid injunctions of this new system.

We are all aware that everything exists in exact accordance with certain established laws, and that, in the code of health, so long as these are not violated, no injurious consequences will follow. It is astonishing that so little is known, generally, of the laws of matter; but how much less regard is paid to those of mind. Great perversions of important principles necessarily ensue—and there follows an entailment of misery on a large portion of mankind. This, however, is wandering somewhat from the consideration of the subject immediately under examination.

With a view of subjecting Prof. Bronson's principles and practice to the severe scrutiny of the profession, wherever he may happen to be engaged, we have thus presented the man and a mere outline of the physiological doctrines he teaches. Let him be watched—and if, in the sequel, it is conceded that he has discovered something new, that is important to the welfare of humanity, grant him the meed of praise that is his due. Within a few days he will commence a series of lectures at New Haven, the seat of science, and if a physiological critique, by a competent hand, should be drawn up, we hope to be favored with it for insertion in this Journal.

Saratoga Waters.—M. L. North, M.D., familiarly known to the readers of the Journal by his contributions to its pages, some of which were recently published, is the author of a neat pocket volume that will prove a valuable directory to invalids who visit the Springs. The title is, "*Saratoga Waters, or the Invalid at Saratoga.*" It is divided into eight chapters—beginning with preliminary observations, quite essential to the understanding of what follows. Chap. 2d treats of professional advice; Chap. 3d, the medical character of the Saratoga waters; Chap. 4th, the same subject continued; Chap. 5th, the comparative advantages of Saratoga Springs as a resort for invalids; Chap. 6th, the internal use of the Saratoga waters; Chap. 7th, the same subject continued; Chap. 8th, the external use of the waters—baths.

Dr. North established himself at Saratoga for the express purpose of regaining his health, and being a man of extensive experience, the public may have perfect confidence in whatever he says. The book is on sale in all the cities—the places from which a majority of patients take a departure for the supposed fountains of health, and they should be provided with this medical guide, which gives desirable and satisfactory information to those who, as strangers, in ill health, and amongst strangers, always feel the want of some such manual.

Medical College of St. Louis.—At the present rate of multiplication, medical schools will be about as common in North America, as insolvent banks. The creation of another, so speedily after the death and burial of

one at Cincinnati, is quite unexpected. Our correspondent gives a key to the whole affair through a paper called the *Spirit of the Times.* Dr. McDowell, the backwoods anatomist, is the moving power. Rumor charges him with being the cause of the late explosion in the Cincinnati College, which blew Drs. Drake and Gross into cushioned chairs at Louisville.

"A medical department has been attached to the Kemper College of St. Louis, under the charter of that institution. The faculty has been organized, and consists of the following members.

"*Faculty.*—Joseph N. McDowell, M.D. (late professor of Special and Surgical Anatomy in the Cincinnati College), professor of Anatomy and Surgery. J. W. Hall, M.D. (late of Kentucky), professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine. Hiram M. Prout, M.D. (late professor of Chemistry and Botany in Lagrange College, Alabama), professor of Materia Medica and Medical Botany. John S. Moore, M.D. (late of Tennessee), professor of the Institutes of Medicine and Obstetrics. John De Wolf, M.D. (late a Professor in the Berkshire Medical School), professor of Chemistry and Pharmacy.

"Some of the above gentlemen have considerable reputation as teachers of medical science, and St. Louis is a desirable location for an institution of this kind.

"The corner stone of the new Medical Amphitheatre was laid recently. Dr. J. N. McDowell delivered an address, after the conclusion of the ceremonies, upon the occasion."

Philosophy of Mind.—Notice of a new work on this subject, by John Stearns, M.D., of New York, has appeared in several periodicals, but no copies, as yet, seem to have reached Boston. This is to be regretted, since there are many persons here who entertain the highest respect for the author, and would be glad to procure anything from a source so elevated.

Rochester Medical Association.—A summer course of lectures commenced at Rochester, N. Y., on the 15th ult., under favorable auspices it is presumed, since the faculty are men of profound scientific attainments and character. We recognise the name of an old friend at the head of the catalogue, Chester Dewey, M.D., who is without a rival in the department assigned him, viz., chemistry and botany. Dr. J. Webster gives the anatomical lectures. Dr. E. M. More, the obstetric. Dr. F. H. Hamilton, those on surgery. It would oblige us, if some one were to let us know of the success of these gentlemen.

Improved Abdominal Supporter.—Dr. Haynes, of Concord, N. H., the ingenious inventor of an instrument of peculiar value, has sent us some new specimens of the abdominal supporter, greatly simplified, and therefore cheaper. This is really worth especial notice, since the instrument is within the reach of the poorest class of sufferers.

Western Medical Journal.—For the information of those who may feel interested, we will mention that Messrs. Prentice & Weissenger, of Louis-

ville, Ky., have commenced a monthly Journal under the editorial care of Professors Drake and Yandell, assisted by their colleagues, and a number of gentlemen, not members of the medical profession, of that place. The subscription is five dollars a year.

Medical College of Philadelphia.—An election of officers took place a short time since, in conformity with the charter. Thos. H. Hewson, M.D., *President;* Thos. Harris, M.D., and Charles D. Meigs, M.D., *Vice Presidents;* Henry Bond, M.D., *Treasurer;* John Bell, M.D., *Corresponding Secretary;* J. Brookfield. M.D., *Curator;* J. Warrington, M.D., *Recording Secretary;* Jacob Randolph, M.D., and Charles D. Meigs, M.D., *Board of Examiners*, for one year; D. F. Condie, M.D., and R. Bridges, M.D., for two years; R. Coates, M.D., and C. W. Pennock, M.D., for three years.

On the Employment of the Oil of Cod Fish in Scrofulous Diseases. By M. Taufflied.—[The beneficial influence of the oil of cod fish in certain forms of scrofulous disease, has within the last few years been dwelt on by various German writers; M. Taufflied reports eight cases, from which he draws the following inferences confirmative of their accounts]. 1. The oil of cod fish exercises a favorable influence on the general state of lymphatic subjects. 2. If administered with proper care it possesses the property of curing scrofula of the bones, tabes mesenterica, and scrofulous or rheumatismal chronic arthritis. 3. Caries accompanied with solution of continuity and engorgement of the soft parts requires local treatment in addition to the oil administered internally. Under these circumstances compression and alcoholic iodurettèd fomentations may be successfully employed. 4. The oil of cod fish has no efficacy in cases of gouty arthritis, nor does it exercise any influence on the engorgement of any lymphatic glands except the abdominal. It seems to have little or no effect on scrofulous phthisis, if this be at all advanced. 5. The oil should be administered perseveringly and for several months, in order to secure advantageous results.—*Gaz. Médicale de Paris.*

Tannin in Hemoptysis.—It appears from the Journal de Med. et de Chirurg. Prat., that this substance has recently been employed in hemoptysis by Dr. Amedee Latour, who highly extols its efficacy in that disease. He employs the following formula: R. Tannin. puræ, gr. iv.; pulv. gum Arab., gr. xvi.; syr. simp., q. s. M. Ft. pilul. No. viij. Four to be taken daily (1 at a dose, at intervals of three hours), for two days. This article occasions constipation, which must be removed by enemata.

Married,—At New Haven, Ct., L. A. Thomas, M.D., to Miss Emeline Peckham.

Died,—At North Bend, Ohio, Dr. Benjamin Harrison, son of Gen. Wm. H. Harrison.

Number of deaths in Boston for the week ending June 27 (including seven omitted at the Health Office last week), 41.—Males, 19—females, 22.—Stillborn, 4.

Of consumption, 7—diarrhœa, 1—smallpox, 2—child-bed, 1—disease of the heart, 1—liver complaint, 1—delirium tremens, 1—cancer, —scrofula, 1—typhous fever, 2—brain fever, 1—apoplexy, 1—infantile, 2—lung fever, 2—inflammation of the lungs, 1—dropsy on the brain, 1—dropsy on the chest, 1—stoppage in the bowels, 1—dropsy, 1—fits, 2—croup, 1—casualty, 1—dropsy in the head, 1—bilious colic, 1—old age, 1—scarlet fever, 1.

PRIVATE HOSPITAL.

THE success of this establishment, since it has been in operation, has encouraged Dr. Jones (my partner in business), to purchase the more spacious and convenient house in Elm street—recently occupied by Justice Willard, Esq.—for a hospital; and he is fitting it for the reception of patients. Dr. Jones and family will reside in the house, and have the charge of its internal economy, and his professional services, when necessary, will be added to my own.

The Hospital will continue to be, under our joint care, what it has heretofore been—"For the treatment of Invalids and for Surgical Operations."

JOSEPH H. FLINT.

Springfield, June 26th, 1840. July 1—3t*

TO DENTISTS.

THE advertiser informs the Dental Profession and others, that he is now manufacturing two Metallic Compounds, for male and female dies, to be used in striking up plates of gold for artificial teeth or other purposes. The first of these metals melts with so little heat that it may be poured into wax impressions without softening them; yet, when cold, it is very hard. The second metal will fuse at a still lower temperature, and is much softer. These metals (numbered 1 and 2) will raise a plate with as much facility and accuracy as zinc and tin. Therefore, plaster of Paris, casting sand, and other inconveniences, may be dispensed with.

It may be had in any quantity of EBENEZER SEAVER, 68 Tremont st. Price, $3 per pound.

June 17—eptf

A RARE CHANCE FOR A YOUNG PHYSICIAN.

A PHYSICIAN, wishing to leave the State, has some property and an excellent situation to dispose of, on very reasonable terms. For further particulars, inquire of the editor of this Journal; if by letter, post paid. June 2—eoptf

SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS.

THE subscriber would respectfully inform the medical profession of the New England States, that he has taken an office at No. 350 Washington street, corner of Hayward place, Boston, where he shall be happy to execute all orders with which he may be favored. Having served for a number of years in Germany, at his profession, and having, also, been employed in England and New York, in forming and finishing instruments of the most delicate kind in use in Surgery, he feels confident that he shall be enabled to give perfect satisfaction to those who may be pleased to patronise him. He begs leave to offer the following testimonial of several medical gentlemen of this city. C. A. ZEITZ.

We, the undersigned, would cordially recommend Mr. C. A. Zeitz as a thorough artist. The surgical instruments of his make, which we have ourselves used, have fully answered our expectations; and we can, therefore, with the more confidence recommend him to the medical profession generally.

JOHN C. WARREN,
GEO. HAYWARD,
S. D. TOWNSEND,
} *Surgeons to Mass. Gen. Hospital.*

TO THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

THE subscribers propose to issue, early in the summer, the first number of a Monthly Journal to be entitled "THE NEW-ENGLAND JOURNAL OF PRACTICAL MEDICINE AND SURGERY."

The Journal will contain original articles from writers of established reputation; critical notices of new medical works; selected articles of interest and value from contemporary journals, foreign and domestic; and the latest general intelligence in medical and surgical science.

It is contemplated, so far as possible, to render available to the profession, through the columns of this Journal, the valuable information that may be obtained from the various public institutions in this city and vicinity; and every exertion will be made to render the Journal of practical value to its readers.

As there is at present but one Medical Journal in New England it has been thought probable that another, conducted upon the above plan, would meet with encouragement and support. Should it meet with your favor an early subscription is respectfully solicited.

The publishers have engaged as editors of the Journal, H. G. Wiley, M.D., and B. E. Cotting, M.D., who have been promised the co-operation and assistance of many of the leading physicians and surgeons in the city.

The editors and publishers pledge themselves that no exertions on their part shall be wanting to render it worthy of the confidence and encouragement of the profession.

Each No. will contain 60 pages octavo, to be printed in a handsome manner, and on good paper, at $3,00 per annum.

OTIS, BROADERS & CO.,

Boston, June, 1840. June 24—3t *No.* 120 *Washington street.*

DR. JOHN DELAMATER, late Professor in the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Fairfield, N. Y., begs leave to announce his location at Saratoga Springs for the practice of physic and surgery; and that he may be found directly opposite the Columbian Hotel, Broadway, at the office of Dr. M. L. North, with whom he has formed a professional partnership. June 24—3t

Saratoga Springs, June 8, 1840.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL is published every Wednesday, by D. CLAPP, JR., at 191 Washington St., corner of Franklin St., to whom all communications must be addressed, post paid. It is also published in Monthly Parts, with a printed cover. There are two volumes each year. J. V. C. SMITH, M.D., Editor. Price $3,00 a year in advance, $3,50 after three months, or $4,00 if not paid within the year. Two copies to the same address, for $5,00 a year, in advance. Orders from a distance must be accompanied by payment in advance or satisfactory reference. Postage the same as for a newspaper.